

In the Claims:

Cancel all prior claims, including mis-numbered claims 17-44 and add claims 145-157 as follows:

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145. A composition for enhancing the antigenicity of a formaldehyde fixed, paraffin-embedded, tissue, the composition comprising:

A buffered solution of about .01 moles of trisodium citrate dihydrate, and about 1000 milliliters of water; about 18.5 milliliters of a mixture by weight about 5.8% ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, about 3.75% nonylphenol ethoxyate, about 1.5% tetrapotassium pyrophosphate and about 88.95% water; and

the pH of the solution being between about 1.0 and about 11.0.

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146. An aqueous composition having a pH between about 1 and about 11 for enhancing the antigenicity of a formaldehyde-fixed, paraffin-embedded, slide-mounted tissue, the composition comprising:

up to about 25% by volume of a mixture by weight about 5.8% ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, about 3.75% nonylphenol ethoxyate, about 1.5% tetrapotassium pyrophosphate and about 88.95% water.; and

up to 10% by weight of citric acid and alkaline citrate salts.

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147. A method for using the composition of Claim 145 or 146, including the steps of:
contacting the tissue with the composition and heating to a temperature of at least 80°C for a time sufficient so that the tissue becomes substantially hydrated;
removing the slide from the composition; and

washing the slide to remove composition.

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148. A method for enhancing immunochemical staining of a paraffin-embedded, formalin-fixed tissue with a single solution the method comprising;

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immersing said tissue for a period of at least about 10 min and a temperature of at least

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80°C in an up to about 10 weight percent aqueous surfactant paraffin- removing agent solution having a pH from about 1 to about 11, said solution also containing at least one of a buffer, salt or chelator-tissue activating agent.

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149. The method of claim 146 or 148 where the solution has a pH of from 5 to 8.

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150. The method of claim 146 or 148 where the surfactant is an aromatic hydrocarbon sulfonate salt.

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151. The method of claim 146 or 148 where the surfactant is at least one of cationic, anionic amphoteric and nonionic.

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152. The method of claim 148 where tissue activating agent is a metal salt.

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153. The method of claim 148 where the tissue activating agent is at least one of aluminum chloride, sodium chloride, sodium fluoride, iron chloride, zinc sulfate, and lead thiocyanate.

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154. The method of claim 148 where the tissue activating agent is a buffering agent.

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155. The method of claim 148 where the tissue activating agent is at least one of a citrate salt, tartrate salt, phthalate salt, borate salt, Tris-HCl, EDTA and phosphate salt.

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156. The method of claim 148 where the tissue activating agent is EDTA.

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157. The method of claim 148 where the tissue activating agent is a buffer.